

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-3 and 8 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 4-7, 9-11, 13-16, 18, and 19 are amended. The revisions to those claims are supported, for example, in the original claims and the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 4-7 and 9-19 are pending, with claims 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, and 19 being independent.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 5-7, 9-12, 14, and 19 are allowable. Claims 9-12, 14, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form and, as such, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Restriction requirement

The Examiner contacted Applicant on July 27, 2004 regarding a restriction requirement with respect to the original claims. Since Applicant has not received any further notice of a restriction requirement, Applicant assumes that the Examiner has resolved the restriction issue in Applicant's favor.

Claim objection

Claim 5 was objected to by the Examiner. Applicant has corrected a typographical error in claim 5 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the objection should be withdrawn in view of this amendment.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-19 stand rejected as being vague and indefinite with regard to the phrase "post-like." The claims have been amended to replace "post-like" with "post." Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn in view of this amendment.

Claim 7 is rejected as being vague and indefinite. Claim 7 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn in view of this amendment.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 8, and 15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,009,016 (Robinson '016). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant notes that claims 1-3 and 8 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to those claims.

Claim 15 depends from independent claim 4. Independent claim 4 is directed to a reversible seat system for a vehicle. At least one receiving slot is located within an outside edge of the seat cushion and extends through a top surface of the seat cushion. By this arrangement, a removable seat can be provided that is structurally secure and aesthetically pleasing. Moreover, by forming the receiving slots within the seat cushion, there are no exposed, movable metal parts that can cause injury or other damage. *See, e.g.*, page 3, lines 4-11 of the specification.

Robinson '016 does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent claim 4 indicated above. For example, the seat cushion 19 disclosed in Robinson '016 does not have any receiving slots extending through a top surface of the seat cushion. Rather, the chair back is attached behind the seat cushion. *See, e.g.*, Figure 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is allowable over the cited reference for the above reasons. Since claim 15 depends from claim 4, claim 15 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

Claims 1-3, 13, and 15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,059,397 (Robinson '397). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant notes that claims 1-3 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to those claims.

Claims 13 and 15 depend from independent claim 4. Robinson '397 does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent claim 4 discussed above. For example, like the seat cushion disclosed in Robinson '016, the seat cushion 7 disclosed in Robinson '397 does not have any receiving slots extending through a top surface of the seat cushion. Rather, the chair back is attached behind the seat cushion. *See, e.g.*, Figure 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is allowable over the cited reference for the above reasons. Since claims 13 and 15 depend from claim 4, claim 13 and 15 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,105,183 (Bly). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant notes that claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to those claims.

Bly also does not teach or suggest the features of claim 4 discussed above. For example, Bly does not teach or suggest that a receiving slot is located within an outside edge of the seat cushion and extends through a top surface of the seat cushion. Rather, Bly discloses that a seat back attaches to a bench A through openings 90, 92 in the side of the bench A. *See, e.g.*, Figure 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is allowable over the cited reference for the above reasons.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected as being anticipated by German Patent document DE 4132279 A1 (Grieger). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant notes that claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-18 stand rejected as being obvious in view of any one of Robinson '016, Robinson '397, Bly, and Grieger. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 16 is directed to a method of manufacturing a reversible seat for a vehicle. The method includes forming at least one receiving slot within an outside edge of the seat cushion so that it extends through a top surface of the seat cushion. As discussed in detail above, none of Robinson '016, Robinson '397, and Bly teaches or suggests this feature.

Grieger also does not teach or suggest the formation of at least one receiving slot within an outside edge of the seat cushion so that it extends through a top surface of the seat cushion. Rather, Grieger discloses that a seat post 6 is attached to a seat in a location behind the seat cushion 2.

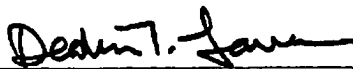
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable over the cited references. In addition, claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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